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CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO: Editors/News Directors
FROM: Mike Gabbard 547-7001 or 371-5188

GABBARD, GARCIA WANT VOTING AT KAPOLEI HALE

HONOLULU – FEBRUARY 6, 2004 – CITY COUNCILMEMBERS MIKE GABBARD AND NESTOR Garcia are calling on the City Clerk to set up absentee voting booths at Kapolei Hale for this year's elections.

A resolution introduced by the two Leeward Councilmembers (*Gabbard, District 1 – Ewa, Kapolei, Wai'anae, Makaha; Garcia, District 9 – Waikele, Waipahu, Makakilo, Mililani*) notes that the City built Kapolei Hale to serve as the hub of City government on the Ewa Plain to make City services more accessible to the area's residents and that the communities surrounding Kapolei on the Ewa Plain, from West Loch to Ko Olina, bring the area's population to almost 70,000 people.

"Nothing is more important to a vibrant democracy and good government than an active voting public," said Gabbard. "There's no question as to the popularity of absentee voting. In the 2002 election, 42,268 absentee walk-in votes were cast – 9% of the total 462,217 votes cast. I want to get those numbers higher by making it as easy as possible for our Wai'anae and Ewa folks to participate in the democratic process. Putting a polling place at Kapolei Hale will do just that."

"If making the voting process easier and more user friendly in this way results in greater participation, then we've struck a blow for democracy," said Garcia. "I really don't see a downside to this measure."

During the 2004 Primary and General Elections, walk-in absentee polling places will be open from September 3-16 and October 19-30. Currently, walk-in polling is set to be located at Honolulu Hale, and locations in Aiea, Windward Oahu, and East Honolulu. The 2004 Primary Election will be held on September 18th and the General Election on November 2nd.

Copies of Reso 04-33 are available at the City Clerk's office or by calling Gabbard at 547-7001.

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